

Bash Shell Basics

Bash stands for “ Bourne again shell “. When you open a terminal window, it is bash that interprets the commands that you type into it and executes them for you.

Each instance of Bash(you can have multiple instances in multiple terminals) has a directory(or folder) referred to as the current directory. Think of it as your present location in the file system. Some of the Bash commands are listed below.

NOTE - These commands are some of the major commands that you need to memorize. But this doesn't form the exhaustive list of Bash Commands. There are some other commands like awk,sed,grep,etc. and other Networking Commands like telnet. Look them up on your own interest using the man pages (or) by Googling the commands. Command to use the man pages are - “man command_name”

1) Commands to move around and explore the File System

COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
pwd	Shows the current directory (present working directory)
cd <i>dir_name</i>	Change the current directory to <i>dir_name</i> (change directory)
cd ..	Change the current directory to the parent of the current directory
ls	List the files in the current directory along with subdirectories (excluding hidden files and hidden subdirectories)
ls -l	Longer form of ls which displays some details of each file in the present working directory
ls -a	List all files and subdirectories in the current working directory (including hidden files and hidden directories)
ls -la	Show all files including hidden files and hidden subdirectories in the longer form
cat <i>file_name</i>	Show the content of the file “ <i>file_name</i> ” on the screen
head <i>file_name</i>	Show the first 10 lines of the file “ <i>file_name</i> ” on the screen
tail <i>file_name</i>	Show the last 10 lines of the file “ <i>file_name</i> ” on the screen
wc <i>file_name</i>	Prints lines, words, and byte counts for <i>file_name</i>

2) Commands to manipulate (create,delete,copy,move) files and directories

COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
touch <i>file1 file2 file3</i>	Creates New Empty files <i>file1,file2,file3</i> in the present directory (If files are already present, then their timestamps would be updated)
mkdir <i>dir1 dir2 dir3</i>	Creates New Empty directories <i>dir1,dir2,dir3</i> in the present directory
mkdir -p <i>dir1/dir2/dir3/</i>	Creates the directory <i>dir1</i> in the present directory. Creates <i>dir2</i> inside <i>dir1</i> ; <i>dir3</i> inside <i>dir2</i> and so on.
cp <i>file1 file2</i>	Make a copy of file1 with the name <i>file2</i> in the same Directory
cp <i>file1 dir1</i>	Make a copy of <i>file1</i> inside the directory <i>dir1</i>
cp <i>file1 file2 file3 dir1</i>	Make copies of <i>file1,file2,file3,.....</i> inside the directory <i>dir1</i> (Copy Multiple files into another Directory)
cp -r <i>dir1 dir2</i>	Copy the whole directory <i>dir1</i> into the directory <i>dir2</i> ; Create <i>dir2</i> if it doesn't exist
mv <i>file1 file2</i>	Move <i>file1</i> to <i>file2</i> (Can be thought of as renaming)
mv <i>file1 dir1</i>	Move <i>file1</i> to the directory named <i>dir1</i>
mv <i>dir1 dir2</i>	Move <i>dir1</i> to the directory <i>dir2</i> (<i>dir2</i> can be specified via Absolute Path a
rm <i>file1 file2 file3</i>	Permanently Deletes the files <i>file1,file2,file3</i>
rmdir <i>dir1 dir2 dir3</i>	Permanently Deletes the Empty Directories <i>dir1,dir2,dir3</i> (The Directories <i>dir1,dir2,dir3</i> have to be empty, else this command won't work)
rm -rf <i>file1/dir1</i>	Permanently deletes the file <i>file1</i> (or) directory <i>dir1</i> (Deletes the directory <i>dir1</i> even if the directory isn't empty)

3) Miscellaneous Commands

COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
date	Prints the current time and date
whoami	Print the name of Current User who is logged in
who	List logged in users
w	Show what logged in users are doing
top	Show dynamic list of processes running. Type "q" to quit
vim <i>file1</i>	Edit <i>file1</i> using vim editor. Create <i>file1</i> if it does not exist

4) Redirection and Piping

SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION
<i>Command > file1</i>	Output of <i>Command</i> is placed into <i>file1</i>. (If <i>file1</i> doesn't exist, it is created. If <i>file1</i> already exists then the previous content of <i>file1</i> is <u>OVERWRITTEN</u> by the output of the <i>Command</i>)
<i>Command < file1</i>	Some commands need input from user (Like ./a.out) . By using the symbol '<' the input is directly given by the content of the file, to the command Ex: ./a.out < testcase1 (testcase1 is a test case file)
<i>Command >> file1</i>	'>>' redirects output to a file (just like <) appending the redirected output at the end, instead of overwriting the file <i>file1</i> , if it already exists
<i>Command1 Command2</i>	' ' is the pipeline operator. The output of command1 is given as the input of command2. This command can be extended to any number of pipeline like <i>cmd1 cmd2 cmd3 cmd4 </i>

5) Process Management

COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
df	Show disk usage
du	Show directory space usage
ps	Display your currently active processes
top	Display all running processes
kill <i>pid</i>	Kill the process with process id <i>pid</i>
Kill -9 <i>pid</i>	Force Kill the process with process id <i>pid</i> instantly
killall <i>proc</i>	Kill all processes named <i>proc</i> *
bg	Lists stopped or background jobs; resume a stopped job in the background
fg	Brings the most recent job to foreground
fg <i>proc</i>	Brings job <i>proc</i> to the foreground

6) Basic Server Commands

COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
ssh <i>user@host</i>	connect to <i>host</i> as <i>user</i>
ssh -p <i>port user@host</i>	connect to <i>host</i> on port <i>port</i> as <i>user</i>
ssh-copy-id <i>user@host</i>	Add your key to host for user to enable a keyed or passwordless login
scp <i>user@host:file1 dirpath</i>	Copies <i>file1</i> from remote machine to the directory specified (<i>dirpath</i>) into local system
scp <i>file1 user@host:dirpath</i>	Copies <i>file1</i> from local system to the directory , <i>dirpath</i> , present in the remote machine
scp -r <i>dir1 user@host:dir2</i>	Copies the whole directory contents , <i>dir1</i> , present in the local system to the directory <i>dir2</i> of remote machine ; Similarly this can be applied to transfer directory contents from remote machine to local system
wget <i>url</i>	Downloads the web content specified by the url, into the present working directory

7) Searching Commands

COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
grep <i>pattern file</i>	search for <i>pattern</i> in <i>file</i>
grep -r <i>pattern dir</i>	search recursively for <i>pattern</i> in <i>dir</i>
<i>command</i> grep <i>pattern</i>	search for <i>pattern</i> in the output of <i>command</i>
locate <i>file1</i>	find all instances of <i>file1</i>

8) Changing File Permissions

Please refer the below link for the complete understanding of what file permissions are and how to modify them.

<https://www.tutorialspoint.com/unix/unix-file-permission.htm>